

***Education Next* — Program on Education Policy and Governance — Survey 2016**

For details on the methodology behind these survey responses, please see “Ten-Year Trends in Public Opinion from the EdNext Poll: Common Core and vouchers down, but many other reforms still popular,” by Paul E. Peterson, Michael B. Henderson, Martin R. West, and Samuel Barrows, available at <http://educationnext.org/>.
 Michael B. Henderson is the *Education Next*-PEPG survey director.

For questions with both “a” and “b” versions, a random half of the respondents were assigned version “a” and the other half were assigned version “b”.
 For questions with both “a”, “b”, “c” and “d” versions, a random fourth of the respondents were assigned version “a”, “b”, “c” or “d”.
 “Parents” are defined as respondents living in a household with one or more children between the ages of 6 and 17.
 Due to rounding, column totals may not always sum to 100.

Knowledge About and Evaluations of Schools

1. Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D, and Fail to denote the quality of their work. Suppose the public schools themselves were graded in the same way. What grade would you give the public schools in your community?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
A	14	25	23	8	17	14	15	13
B	41	45	46	37	44	41	39	42
C	32	19	25	34	28	33	32	31
D	9	7	6	11	6	8	9	9
Fail	5	4	1	9	5	4	5	5

2. How about the public schools in the nation as a whole? What grade would you give them?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
A	3	6	3	5	9	1	2	3
B	22	28	27	22	37	19	19	25
C	53	48	56	50	40	57	52	54
D	17	15	11	15	10	18	21	14
Fail	5	4	3	8	4	5	7	4

3a. Considering only the amount of time spent on just the five subjects listed below (not counting recess, lunch time, extracurricular activities, and so forth), what percentage of time is spent on each subject at your local schools? Your answers should add to 100%.

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Reading (Mean)	24	24	29	25	24	24	23	24
Math (Mean)	24	25	26	24	26	25	24	25
The arts (Mean)	14	13	11	15	15	13	14	13
History (Mean)	18	17	16	16	16	18	18	17
Science (Mean)	20	19	18	19	18	20	20	20

3b. Considering only the amount of time spent on just the five subjects listed below (not counting recess, lunch time, extracurricular activities, and so forth), what percentage of time should be spent on each subject at your local schools? Your answers should add to 100%.

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Reading (Mean)	25	24	26	27	23	24	25	24
Math (Mean)	24	24	25	24	26	24	25	24
The arts (Mean)	13	14	14	13	13	14	13	14
History (Mean)	17	17	16	17	17	17	17	17
Science (Mean)	20	20	19	18	20	21	21	20

School Spending

4. Based on your best guess, what is the average amount of money spent each year for a child in public schools in your local school district?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
\$	7020	5220	6821	8020	6698	6959	7214	6970

5. Based on your best guess, what is the average amount of money spent each year for a child in public schools in the United States as a whole?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
\$	8484	6246	8745	11863	9543	7301	8051	8834

6a. According to the most recent information available, \$<INSERT PPS>] is being spent each year per child attending public schools in your district. Do you think that government funding for public schools in your district should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Greatly Increase	10	15	17	11	16	7	5	13
Increase	36	37	43	52	38	32	26	44
Stay about the Same	45	40	35	31	36	50	55	37
Decrease	8	4	4	6	5	9	11	5
Greatly Decrease	2	3	1	0	5	2	3	1

6b. Do you think that government funding for public schools in your district should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Greatly Increase	16	24	34	32	25	12	10	21
Increase	45	45	41	42	49	46	41	49
Stay about the Same	34	27	21	24	24	36	41	27
Decrease	4	3	2	3	2	5	7	2
Greatly Decrease	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	1

Accountability and the Common Core State Standards

7a. As you may know, in the last few years states have been deciding whether or not to use the Common Core, which are standards for reading and math that are the same across the states. In the states that have these standards, they will be used to hold public schools accountable for their performance. Do you support or oppose the use of the Common Core standards in your state?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Strongly Support	11	12	13	12	16	9	8	13
Somewhat Support	31	30	28	42	30	30	27	35
Somewhat Oppose	19	15	19	17	17	21	19	20
Strongly Oppose	22	28	32	6	12	27	34	12
Neither Support nor Oppose	16	15	8	22	24	13	12	19

7b. As you may know, in the last few years states have been deciding whether or not to use standards for reading and math that are the same across the states. In the states that have these standards, they will be used to hold public schools accountable for their performance. Do you support or oppose the use of these standards in your state?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Strongly Support	15	14	10	11	20	12	13	16
Somewhat Support	41	43	36	43	38	42	39	42
Somewhat Oppose	18	18	27	9	12	21	20	17
Strongly Oppose	10	12	19	3	7	11	14	7
Neither Support nor Oppose	17	13	7	33	23	13	13	18

Based on your best guess, what level of government currently plays the biggest role in each of the following:

8/Part I. Setting educational standards for what students should know.

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Federal government	39	36	34	30	39	39	40	37
State government	51	49	60	53	45	52	51	51
Local government	11	14	6	16	16	9	9	12

8/Part II. Deciding whether or not a school is failing.

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Federal government	17	15	17	15	24	15	18	16
State government	62	61	70	60	49	66	65	60
Local government	21	24	14	25	27	19	18	24

8/Part III. Deciding how to fix failing schools.

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Federal government	18	14	17	19	25	16	19	17
State government	57	55	58	60	49	59	56	58
Local government	25	31	25	21	26	25	25	25

9. Do you support or oppose the federal government continuing to require that all students be tested in math and reading each year in grades 3-8 and once in high school?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Completely Support	33	32	15	32	41	31	31	34
Somewhat Support	36	36	34	35	34	38	35	38
Somewhat Oppose	13	15	27	10	8	14	14	12
Completely Oppose	7	9	19	6	5	7	9	5
Neither Support nor Oppose	11	8	5	16	12	10	10	11

10. Some people say that ALL students should take state tests in math and reading. Others say that parents should decide whether or not their children take these tests. Do you support or oppose letting parents decide whether to have their children take state math and reading tests?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Completely Support	10	19	15	12	15	8	10	10
Somewhat Support	16	18	24	19	17	15	17	15
Somewhat Oppose	24	23	20	20	19	26	25	25
Completely Oppose	36	26	32	27	35	37	35	37
Neither Support nor Oppose	15	13	8	22	15	13	14	14

11. Do you support or oppose using the same standardized tests in every state?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Completely Support	27	28	19	27	32	25	24	30
Somewhat Support	35	33	34	32	33	37	35	36
Somewhat Oppose	14	14	16	7	16	16	16	14
Completely Oppose	9	11	21	13	5	10	11	8
Neither Support nor Oppose	14	14	9	21	14	13	14	13

School Choice Policies

12a. As you may know, many states permit the formation of charter schools, which are publicly funded but are not managed by the local school board. These schools are expected to meet promised objectives, but are exempt from many state regulations. Do you support or oppose the formation of charter schools?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Completely Support	17	22	13	9	22	18	22	13
Somewhat Support	34	30	29	36	23	36	37	31
Somewhat Oppose	18	15	21	23	16	18	15	21
Completely Oppose	9	10	27	6	9	10	6	12
Neither Support nor Oppose	21	23	11	26	31	18	19	22

12b. Do you support or oppose the formation of charter schools?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Completely Support	12	12	11	9	15	11	16	9
Somewhat Support	22	22	16	24	19	23	24	21
Somewhat Oppose	12	11	25	6	5	13	10	13
Completely Oppose	6	6	24	7	6	5	4	8
Neither Support nor Oppose	49	49	25	54	54	47	46	49

13. A proposal has been made to offer a tax credit for individual and corporate donations that pay for scholarships to help low-income parents send their children to private schools. Would you favor or oppose such a proposal?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Completely Support	20	27	15	32	30	15	18	22
Somewhat Support	33	33	27	32	32	34	32	35
Somewhat Oppose	16	13	20	11	12	18	19	15
Completely Oppose	13	12	28	6	7	15	15	11
Neither Support nor Oppose	18	16	10	19	18	17	17	17

14a. A proposal has been made that would give all families with children in public schools a wider choice, by allowing them to enroll their children in private schools instead, with government helping to pay the tuition. Would you favor or oppose this proposal?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Completely Support	15	31	11	23	12	13	18
Somewhat Support	29	29	23	35	30	28	31
Somewhat Oppose	21	16	20	15	24	22	21
Completely Oppose	23	15	36	9	26	27	18
Neither Support nor Oppose	12	9	10	18	9	10	13

**Note: Data not available for African Americans due to sample size.*

14b. A proposal has been made that would use government funds to pay the tuition of low-income students who choose to attend private schools. Would you favor or oppose this proposal?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Completely Support	11	17	10	21	7	8	12
Somewhat Support	20	20	10	25	19	17	22
Somewhat Oppose	25	18	25	25	25	23	27
Completely Oppose	30	27	48	18	34	39	25
Neither Support nor Oppose	14	17	7	10	15	12	15

**Note: Data not available for African Americans due to sample size.*

14c. A proposal has been made that would give low-income families with children in public schools a wider choice, by allowing them to enroll their children in private schools instead, with government helping to pay the tuition. Would you favor or oppose this proposal?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Completely Support	15	24	12	32	8	12	17
Somewhat Support	22	23	16	22	19	19	25
Somewhat Oppose	25	17	22	20	29	25	25
Completely Oppose	23	23	44	9	29	29	19
Neither Support nor Oppose	15	13	6	16	14	15	14

**Note: Data not available for African Americans due to sample size.*

14d. A proposal has been made that would use government funds to pay the tuition of all students who choose to attend private schools. Would you favor or oppose this proposal?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Completely Support	9	16	5	19	6	8	10
Somewhat Support	20	19	13	30	16	18	22
Somewhat Oppose	24	20	21	19	26	21	26
Completely Oppose	33	33	57	16	40	42	28
Neither Support nor Oppose	14	12	5	16	13	11	14

**Note: Data not available for African Americans due to sample size.*

15a. About what share of instructional time in high school do you think students should spend receiving instruction independently through or on a computer?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
None	8	8	8	4	8	9	10	6
10%	15	14	23	9	8	17	17	13
20%	23	27	27	21	20	24	23	23
30%	21	20	23	20	18	21	21	23
40%	9	8	8	7	11	8	7	10
50%	14	12	5	23	16	13	11	15
60%	4	3	2	11	4	3	5	4
70%	3	3	1	2	3	3	1	3
80%	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	2
90%	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
100%	3	3	1	3	10	1	3	2

15b. About what share of time in high school do you think students should spend learning independently through or on a computer?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
None	7	4	7	4	10	7	8	6
10%	16	18	19	7	16	17	16	16
20%	23	23	27	22	15	24	24	22
30%	22	21	27	24	17	23	24	21
40%	9	8	9	6	11	9	8	10
50%	11	15	6	22	14	9	10	12
60%	4	5	2	4	2	4	4	4
70%	4	3	3	2	8	3	3	4
80%	2	2	2	5	2	2	2	3
90%	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	1
100%	1	2	0	2	3	1	0	2

Personnel Policies

16. Suppose you had to evaluate each teacher in your local schools for the quality of their work. What percent of teachers in your local schools would you put in each category? Your answers should add to 100%.

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Excellent (Mean)	26	32	34	27	30	25	26	26
Good (Mean)	33	32	35	30	32	34	33	33
Satisfactory (Mean)	26	22	21	24	23	27	27	26
Unsatisfactory (Mean)	15	13	10	18	15	14	14	15

17. Based on your best guess, what is the average yearly salary of a public school teacher in your state?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
\$	39797	36322	46181	34525	33749	41629	42190	38346

18a. Do you think that public school teacher salaries should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Greatly Increase	18	20	42	20	14	12	21
Increase	47	47	47	43	45	40	54
Stay about the Same	30	29	10	34	34	38	23
Decrease	4	3	1	3	5	7	1
Greatly Decrease	1	1	0	0	2	2	0

**Note: Data not available for African Americans due to sample size.*

18b. As it turns out, public school teachers in your state are paid an average annual salary of \$<INSERT PAY>. Do you think that public school teacher salaries should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Greatly Increase	9	15	34	19	6	6	11
Increase	33	34	45	27	31	26	38
Stay about the Same	50	46	20	44	56	57	45
Decrease	7	3	1	9	7	10	5
Greatly Decrease	1	2	0	0	1	1	1

**Note: Data not available for African Americans due to sample size.*

18c. Do you think taxes to fund public school teacher salaries should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Greatly Increase	7	7	22	9	6	4	9
Increase	37	35	44	50	34	29	45
Stay about the Same	46	46	31	31	50	57	37
Decrease	7	9	2	6	8	8	7
Greatly Decrease	2	3	1	4	2	2	2

**Note: Data not available for African Americans due to sample size.*

18d. As it turns out, public school teachers in your state are paid an average annual salary of \$<INSERT PAY>. Do you think taxes to fund public school teacher salaries should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Greatly Increase	6	7	25	6	6	4	7
Increase	29	34	43	31	26	24	33
Stay about the Same	54	48	27	52	57	56	53
Decrease	7	8	5	5	9	12	4
Greatly Decrease	4	3	0	7	2	5	3

**Note: Data not available for African Americans due to sample size.*

19. Do you favor or oppose basing part of the salaries of teachers on how much their students learn?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Completely Favor	15	16	3	13	18	15	17	14
Somewhat Favor	37	37	16	32	36	39	40	36
Somewhat Oppose	21	22	28	19	18	22	20	23
Completely Oppose	14	13	49	15	13	14	13	15
Neither Favor nor Oppose	13	12	4	20	15	10	10	13

20. [Order of pro/con arguments randomized] Teachers with tenure cannot be dismissed unless a school district follows detailed procedures. Some say that tenure protects teachers from being fired for arbitrary reasons. Others say that it makes it too difficult to replace ineffective teachers. Do you favor or oppose giving tenure to teachers?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Strongly Favor	6	7	29	7	9	5	4	8
Somewhat Favor	21	24	32	23	24	21	17	26
Somewhat Oppose	32	31	18	33	29	33	32	32
Strongly Oppose	22	18	13	7	14	26	31	14
Neither Favor nor Oppose	19	20	9	29	24	15	16	20

21. [Order of pro/con arguments randomized] In some states, all teachers must pay fees for union representation even if they choose not to join the union. Some say that all teachers should have to contribute to the union because they all get the pay and benefits the union negotiates with the school board. Others say teachers should have the freedom to choose whether or not to pay the union. Do you support or oppose requiring all teachers to pay these fees even if they do not join the union?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Completely Support	17	15	23	20	18	17	11	23
Somewhat Support	17	17	19	13	19	18	14	20
Somewhat Oppose	18	19	20	19	18	18	17	19
Completely Oppose	26	27	27	16	19	29	39	16
Neither Support nor Oppose	21	21	11	32	26	19	18	22

22. Some people say that teacher unions are a stumbling block to school reform. Others say that unions fight for better schools and better teachers. What do you think? Do you think teacher unions have a generally positive effect on schools, or do you think they have a generally negative effect?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Strongly positive	9	10	26	8	10	9	5	13
Somewhat positive	23	23	34	26	29	21	16	29
Somewhat negative	17	14	12	13	17	18	20	15
Strongly negative	16	15	7	7	11	18	27	7
Neither positive nor negative	35	38	21	46	34	34	33	35

School Discipline

23a. Do you support or oppose school district policies that prevent schools from expelling or suspending black and Hispanic students at higher rates than other students?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Completely Support	8	8	10	13	17	5	6	9
Somewhat Support	12	11	14	16	19	10	9	15
Somewhat Oppose	18	19	23	14	11	20	17	20
Completely Oppose	33	38	35	17	25	36	44	24
Neither Support nor Oppose	29	25	18	40	28	28	25	31

23b. Do you support or oppose federal policies that prevent schools from expelling or suspending black and Hispanic students at higher rates than other students?

	Public	Parents	Teachers	African Americans	Hispanics	Whites	Republicans	Democrats
Completely Support	9	9	8	26	9	6	4	13
Somewhat Support	12	11	14	12	18	10	7	16
Somewhat Oppose	21	21	23	18	19	21	19	22
Completely Oppose	34	35	35	22	22	39	47	23
Neither Support nor Oppose	25	23	19	22	31	24	23	26